

Summary of the Friday Sermon Delivered By Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad - Khalifatul Masih V on 5th August 2011

All that is on it will pass away.

Except what remains by the desire of thy Lord, Master of Glory and Honour.¹

Explaining further, the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) states 'Everything is destined to perish and ultimately only God will remain.'² That 'He has decreed death for everything apart from His Being.'³ At the *Ameen* ceremony of his son Syedna Mahmood (Allah be pleased with him), the Promised Messiah wrote a poetic composition entitled 'Mahmood's Ameen', which is full of prayerful and advisory verses. He addressed these verses to Syedna Mahmood as well as to his 2 other sons. In fact, he included the whole *Jamat* in this:

The world is like an inn - Those who meet, will part;
Even if one lives a hundred years, at the end there is parting;
There is no cause for complaint - This home is itself transitory;⁴

The Imam of the age who came to bring man closer to God, thus drew attention at a time of rejoicing to the fact that real happiness lies in Divine proximity. The world indulges in idle, vain ways and means at time of rejoicing but the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) taught that all our attention should be drawn towards God and for this each act of ours should be to attain the pleasure of God. Once this insight is realised, the strands of our times of joy and sadness will flow towards attaining the pleasure of God. The Promised Messiah (peace be on him) came to complete the mission of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. For him there was no greater joy than for his children to cherish love of God and be saturated in the love of the Prophet ﷺ and to read and act upon *The Holy Quran*. After Syedna Mahmood (Allah be pleased with him) finished his first reading of *The Holy Quran*, the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) held a reception and this poem was written for that occasion. Each couplet of this poem is replete with heart-felt prayer and praise and glorification of God. Acting upon the blessed model of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) told his children and his followers not to fall in love with this world for a time will come when the world and all that is in it will have to be left behind. It is pointless to love this world for it will not last. Lasting benefit is in having a connection with the Being that always was and always will be and that Being is God, the Master of Glory and Honour.

The aforementioned verses cite two important matters. One is that everything is prone to decline and will gradually perish and each human ultimately dies. The other point is that those who endeavour to attain God's pleasure should be hopeful. Those who ever search for God, who endeavour for the piety of their children, doubtlessly depart from this world but they are granted an eternal life in the Hereafter and are taken in the loving embrace of God as they hear:

So enter thou among my chosen servants.

Enter thou My Paradise.⁵

The advent of the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) took place to connect man with God and make him understand the subject of 'So enter thou among my chosen servants'. Thus, at a time of rejoicing he articulated in the poem that search for eternal life and unless one finds God, one cannot discover this everlasting life. It is stated in Surah al-Qasas:

Call not on any other God beside Allah. There is no God but He. Everything will perish except His Face. His is the judgement and to Him will you return.⁶

This is the objective which we have to achieve, as God also states 'I have not created the Jinn and the men but that they may worship Me.'⁷ The significance of such worship is understood once one is firm on the belief that 'There is no God but He' and all else will perish.

God draws attention to such matters to those who believe in Him with sincerity. He also provides opportunities for attaining high standards of worship. The month of Ramadan comes every year so that we recognise God and save ourselves from destruction. Fortunate are those who avail of this opportunity and having done so, continue to strive towards it for the rest of the year. Those alone endeavour with resolve who understand that 'Everything will perish except His Face.' No doubt therein is the teaching that death is a reality but those who absorb themselves in God achieve a new life. Who are those who are absorbed in *the Person of thy Lord*? These are those who understand the objective of creation. Indeed, fortunate are those who make an effort to comprehend this subject and then act accordingly. May God enable each one of us to understand this subject and act upon it and may this Ramadan take us closer to this, for which our elders made endeavours and prayed for and breathed this spirit in the new generation.

When a dear one, an elder departs from this world one is further drawn to this subject. Indeed each person who has firm faith and belief in God should be further drawn to this subject at such a time. Recently, my mother passed away. *We belong to Allah and to Him do we return.* When I reflect over her life, I note her standard of worship as a model. Her reading of the Quran for hours, deliberating over it and her engrossment in Prayer were exemplary for me. Although she did not experience the time of the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) but she saw the early times and had the love and prayers of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I (Allah be pleased with him) and had the blessings of the Companions of the Promised Messiah (peace be on him). She had the positive and distinctive influence of the time closer to that of the Promised Messiah and she was the eldest daughter and second child of Hazrat Musleh Maud (Allah be pleased with him). She carried herself with dignity, the sort of dignity which should be evident in a believer. She was anxious to cultivate the love of God; this angst was heart-

felt and could be seen in her poetic compositions. Judging from the engrossed manner in which she offered her Prayer, I know her feelings were not superficial like poets who wander in the wilderness. In a poetic composition she wrote:

Your love, Your mercy, Your forgiveness too
I seek Your pleasure each moment
Having lost everything in His obedience
I only seek my Master's support
May You alone be in my heart
I seek the mantle of Your mercy

It is related in the *Hadith* that as a funeral procession passed by, the Companions spoke well of the deceased. The Holy Prophet said 'It has become obligatory'. The Companions asked what had become obligatory. The Prophet ﷺ answered that Paradise had become obligatory for the person because when people praise the virtues of the deceased, God makes arrangements for his or her forgiveness.

People who knew my mother are writing of her many qualities in the numerous letters of condolence that I am receiving on her passing away. In light of these letters and what I had himself observed, he hope and pray that her prayer 'I seek the mantle of Your mercy' is fulfilled and God has wrapped her in the cover of His mercy and forgiveness.

O my Dear God! Extend the treatment to my mother that she sought in this prayer, and make us, her children also understand this concept. In this world and after death, keep us also wrapped in the cover of Your mercy. May we never be distant from the expectations that she had from her children. May God also enable her future generations to attain His pleasure.

My mother was the eldest daughter of Hazrat Musleh Maud (Allah be pleased with him) and Syeda Mahmooda Begum and was born in 1911. Her mother was the daughter of Dr. Khalifa Rasheeduddin. The *Nikah* [engagement] of the my mother's parents took place in 1902 and they were married in October 1903. The Promised Messiah (peace be on him) wrote to Dr. Khalifa Rasheeduddin that Mahmood was pleased with this match and this was a testimony that this was according to the Divine will.⁸ Certainly this was the case as their son was given the mantle of the Caliphate. My parent's *Nikah* took place in 1934 and Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II (Allah be pleased with him) gave a lengthy sermon at the occasion. 2 *Nikahs* were announced at the time, first was that of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III (Allah have mercy on him) and the other of my parents. The sermon was for the *Jamat* in general and the family of the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) in particular so that they realise their responsibilities and for my mother who always strived for the high morals of everyone, to be rewarded by God and my attention is drawn to this because of her passing away:

He shall also raise him amongst others who have not yet joined them. He is the Mighty the Wise.⁹

This signified the coming of the perfect *Buruz* [spiritual manifestation] of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. It was not only the Prophecy rather also an appeal by the Prophet ﷺ that when the evil of the Antichrist appeared, a few people of Persian descent will rise against it. Citing an incident from the life of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, Hazrat Musleh Maud (Allah be pleased with him) said:

During an expedition there was lack of order among the Muslims so much so that only a dozen Companions remained around the Prophet ﷺ. At this time, the Holy Prophet had it announced that Prophet of God was calling on the Muslims. The Companions rushed to get to him trampling everything in their way. The call the Prophet ﷺ made regarding people of Persian descent was far greater in glory, in belief, in confidence, in love and in hope than the call he made to his Companions. He explained that the particular word used by the Prophet ﷺ in his prophecy connotes not just the people of Persian descent; rather it also signifies their generations to follow who will have the same responsibility.¹⁰

Hazrat Musleh Maud (Allah be pleased with him) thus passed the message and the trust onto the family of those of 'Persian descent'. He said that he thus passed on the responsibility to the next generation, be they his children or the children of his brothers.

I pray that having listened to this heartfelt message, may God make us feel responsible and may the passing away of the eminent elder of the family draw the *Jamat* in general and the family of the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) in particular towards the important obligation that the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) has stated.

Briefly citing the life-history of my mother, given the times, her father stressed her religious and worldly education and she was educated up to the FA standard. On 17th March 1925 a College was opened for girls and my mother was one of the early students in it. She passed the qualification of *Maulwi* in 1929 from the College. Hazrat Musleh Maud (Allah be pleased with him) also wrote a poem on the *Ameen* of his children which is full of prayers. Mentioning my mother, Hazrat Sahibzadi Nasira Begum, the poem says:

My Nasira , a virtuous star
Wise, dutiful, a pure gem

These attributes are not simply borne out of the love of a father. Many of the *Lajna* who worked with my mother have verified these sentiments. A former *President of Lajna* wrote that she was very keen regarding moral upbringing and always thought of new ideas and plans in this regard. She wished for each girl and each woman from Rabwah to have a very high standard of morality and to maintain the dignity of *Purdah* and general deportment. If she found someone not conducting themselves as they should, she would go up to them and lovingly explain about maintaining dignity.

In an address during his first *Jalsa* as Khalifatul Masih, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (Allah have mercy on him) spoke about my mother. He said that:

I have a sister who strictly abides by *Purdah*. She followed whatever she saw Hazrat Musleh Maud (Allah be pleased with him) do.

Some younger women think that such ideas were of earlier times. The earlier times I know of was the time of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. This sister of mine truly follows her strict ways while firmly abiding by God-consciousness.¹¹

My mother had served as President of the Lajna, Rabwah for a long time and during her term she always aspired and worked hard for the Rabwah Lajna to secure prominent position within Pakistan. This was not simply to be high on the league table but was owing to the thought that Rabwah was the seat of the Caliphate and no one should have the occasion to say that there was ‘darkness under the lamp’. Of course, God’s pleasure was her objective. Someone has written to me that my mother’s decisions had great foresight. She always consulted others and respected each person whom she consulted. One of her approaches to increase education and knowledge was to ask every member to memorise 2 couplets from the books *Durr e Samin* and *Kalam e Mahmood* for meetings. Not only did this enhance spiritual knowledge, it was also most helpful towards Rabwah winning first position in *Bait Bazi* competitions.

I am aware that my mother had memorised many poetic couplets. Imam Sahib’s wife has written to me that during the journey to an out of town trip, rather than chat, she encouraged everyone to have a *Bait Bazi* session. My father Hazrat Mirza Mansoor Ahmad had also committed many couplets of *Durr e Samin* to memory. It seemed as if he remembered the entire composition of ‘E Khuda e Karsaz’. During their family travels, they always had *Bait Bazi* sessions; my father had one team and my mother the other. My mother knew the entire *Qaseeda* by heart. After the passing away of my father whichever granddaughter slept with her, had the task of helping her revise *Qaseeda*. She remembered part of *Qaseeda* till her last days. She also read the Quran with great concentration. If she ever had any spare time during the day from house work, which she did in supporting her household help as well as undertake *Lajna* work, in addition to her morning recitation, she would sit and read the Quran with deep reflection but it was not her habit to unnecessarily mention her knowledge in spite of her vast reading practice. As she had ‘Maulwi’ qualification, her knowledge of Arabic was good. She was most sympathetic and compassionate by nature and helped people with cash or by giving grain and also drew others’ attention to do the same. A few well-off people gave their charity to her so that she would distribute it to the deserving. As she was the President of Rabwah Lajna for a long period she knew people and was aware of their situation. During her office term, she was not a President only as an administrator, rather, she was in touch with almost every family. During her term as President of Lajna Rabwah she was prominent in every department.

Many acquaintances of her are writing to me and mentioning how hospitable she would be when people went to visit her and would offer seasonal refreshments. She was very discerning and could gauge the situation by looking at the faces, asked after people and gave them good advice and prayers. She would draw attention regarding the moral upbringing of children. As she had been a President for a long period, the various *Lajna* meetings would take place in my family home. We had a large veranda where everything was arranged. Promptly after Asr Prayer, everyone had to leave home because it used to be occupied by *Lajna*. 150 to 200 ladies would gather there and she would personally arrange for refreshments to be served. If one was indoors, one had to remain there for a couple of hours as the house was taken over by *Lajna*. An old class fellow of mine has written to me remembering how once she heard a *Haji*’s voice and asked my friend to go and see if the *Haji*

had eaten or not as it was meal time. Once she came to know that someone was going through hard times and wished to send their children abroad. She had her Prayer mat sent to that person with the message that she had prayed for them on the particular Prayer mat and with God's grace all their children will have the chance to go abroad. The person has written to me that an extraordinary set of events followed and all their children could go abroad. He has written that there are sympathetic people around but her concern was so unique that she made specific prayers and then sent a message.

My mother related one of her dreams to me in which she saw the Holy Prophet ﷺ. She once told me about a dream she had about the bright future of German *Jamat*. When I recently visited Germany and observed the increasing connections and networks of the *Jamat* there, I was reminded of the dream. Another of her attribute was that she was very particular about all kinds of *Chandas* [offerings]. As long as I was in Pakistan, she used to ask me to organise it for her and would repeatedly say that the payments should be accurate. She had various sources of income and if the estimated income differed from what was received, she would ensure that the balance in *Chanda* was paid forthwith.

Dr. Noori has written to me and has also forwarded a letter that my mother sent him in 1999 in reply to Dr. Noori's letter to her following my release from prison [where His Holiness was a prisoner of conscience]. She wrote:

Dear Noori.

Assalamoalaikum warahamtullah wabarakatahu.

I have received your letter in which you have expressed delight on the safe release of dear Masroor. It is great grace of Allah, otherwise the enemy had very dangerous plans. With His blessings God has demonstrated his power. We could not thank Him enough. Almost everyone in Rabwah as well as people outside Rabwah made many heart-felt prayers. God accepted their prayers. *Alhamdolillah, Summa Alhamdolillah*. May God also protect everyone in future.

Therein is her humility that she does not mention her own prayers that she is bound to have made as a mother. Rather, she mentions the prayers of people of *Jamat*. She also does not say may God protect my children, rather she prays for everyone. Thus it is the distinction of the *Jamat* of the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) and her expression here is borne of the high moral standard that Hazrat Musleh Maud (Allah be pleased with her) inculcated in her.

My mother had great self-control but my son told me that when he visited her a few years ago she became very emotional when I was mentioned. After becoming Caliph her relationship with me took on a different tone and I would feel this over the telephone. I used to ring her prior to going on tours and she, knowing me well for no one knows one more than one's mother, that I was quiet and said little, would pray that may God bless my words and his speeches. She would tell me that she was offering *Nawafil* [voluntary prayers] and making prostrations of special prayers. When I met her at Qadian in 2005 it was an amazing situation for me; a unique experience. Her connection with the earlier Caliphs that I had seen in the past was now extended to me by her and the mother and son connection was not there. It was replaced by a connection to the Caliphate which had respect and deference.

Dr. Ibrahim took her interview there [in Qadian] in which I am also mentioned. In the interview she said that she had respect and regard for me because I was the Caliph of the

time. My dear mother gave precedence to this relationship over every other relationship. When I went to meet her [in Qadian] she would have happiness and brightness in her eyes and her face would burst with joy. Whatever time I could find from the engagements of Jalsa I would go and see her, she would be loving towards me and we would sit together and talk for some time. But this was only over a period of 15 days. When she departed from there, she did so with prayers.

Dr. Furrukh has written to me to say that when he went to see her to pay his condolences at the passing away of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (Allah have mercy on him) she asked him to pray to be enabled to take the *Bayat* of the next Caliph and also to develop an emotional connection with him. I pray that may God bless her with Paradise.

In 1913 when Hazrat Musleh Maud (Allah be pleased with him) wished to start the newspaper *Al Fazl*, his wife Hazrat Umm e Nasir offered her jewellery to fund it initially. He wrote that God had inspired his wife in a way that Hazrat Khadija (Allah be pleased with her) was inspired to help the Holy Prophet ﷺ. She gave 2 pieces of her jewellery to be sold to fund the launch of the newspaper. One of these were her own gold bracelets, the other were her gold bracelets that she had kept since childhood for the use of her daughter Nasira Begum. By selling this jewellery the newspaper was launched. I appeal that the readers of *Al Fazl* remember the dear daughter of Hazrat Musleh Maud (Allah be pleased with him), my mother, in their prayers when reading the newspaper. Although not on a conscious level, but she also took part in the installation of *Al Fazl* which today is also published as *Al Fazl International*.

I pray that may God continue to elevate her station in Paradise and may her prayers reach us. I shall lead her funeral Prayer in absentia after the Friday Prayer.

Next, I announce 2 further funeral Prayers in absentia, these are of Chaudhry Nazir Ahmad and respected Mirza Rafiq Ahmad.

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¹ *The Holy Quran*. al-Rahman [The Beneficient]: 27, 278.

² Ahmad, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam. *Sat Bachan*. (Zia al-Islam, 1895). *Ruhani Khazain*: x. 231.

³ Ibid. *Chashma e Marifat*. (Anwar Ahmadiyya Press, 1908). *Ruhani*: xxiii. 165.

⁴ Ibid. *Durr e Samin* [Precious Pearls]. *Ruhani*: xii. 323.

⁵ *Quran*. al-Fajr [The Dawn]: 30, 31.

⁶ *Quran*. al-Qasas [The Stories]: 89.

⁷ *Quran*. al-Zariyat [The Winnowing Winds]: 57.

⁸ Shahid, Maulana Dost Muhammad. *Tarikh e Ahmadiyyat*.

⁹ *Quran*. al-Jummuah [The Friday Congregation]: 4.

¹⁰ Ahmad, Hazrat al-Hajj Mirza Basheeruddin Mahmood – Khalifatul Masih II. *Khutbat e Mahmood*: iii.

¹¹ Ahmad, Hazrat Mirza Tahir – Khalifatul Masih IV. Address to Ladies, Jalsa Salana 27th December 1982. *Al-Azharu Lizawat al-Khimar: Orrni Waliyon Key Liyey Phul*: ii. 8.